

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: August 2, 2012

Agenda Item: Final 2012 & 2013 Furbearer Seasons and 2012 Quotas

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Approval of Final Rule

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 minutes

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Background

Furbearer season structure is defined by FWP Commission rule every two years. Furbearer quotas are set annually. Season structure for 2012 and 2013, and annual quotas for 2012, are included below. All other season elements and quotas are proposed unchanged from 2011. The June proposal included removing the Special Marten Regulation in Trapping Districts 1 and 2. That proposal has been withdrawn due to comments by the US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding potential for incidental take of Lynx. Otherwise, there are no changes from the June proposal.

- Close furbearer trapping in the Bass Creek Special Recreation Area in Region 2.
- Clarify language regarding snares under **Public Land Trailheads**. Clarify language to prohibit snares within 1000 feet of public land trailheads.
- Replace otter carcass collection with skull collection only. Otter skulls will continue to be collected to provide teeth for aging used in population analysis.
- Modify bobcat quotas in Regions 2 and 6: Region 2 increase from 100 to 180; Region 6 decrease from 125 to 90.
- FWP proposes no change to bobcat quotas in Regions 5 and 7.

Public Involvement Process & Results

The public comment period ran through 5 p.m., July 9. Twenty-two comments were received and delivered to the Commission for their consideration prior to any final decision on August 2.

Alternative and Analysis

Proposals provide sound furbearer management to include trapping with consideration of comments and concerns from other user groups. The intent is to reasonably *share* the landscape, associated resources and opportunities to the extent possible. Proposals for specific changes to bobcat quotas include current information assembled by regional FWP staff.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale

FWP recommends maintaining the 2011 season structure and quotas except for the changes above. This is consistent with existing information and represents reasonable and appropriate consideration of user conflict and the continued presence of contemporary research and other data in furbearer management and restoration opportunities that include trapping.

Proposed Motion

I move to adopt the final 2012 and 2013 trapping regulations & furbearer seasons and 2012 quotas as proposed by FWP.
